

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 5-15 are pending. Claim 5 is amended. Claim 15 is added. No new matter is added in the above amendments.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Breitweiser, US '914 in view of Sitrick et al. (US 2003/0110926). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

These two references have been discussed exhaustively in the record. At this point, it probably suffices to simply state that Applicant maintains that the references are being read by the Office too broadly, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine them in the way suggested in an attempt to arrive at the present invention. With regard to the previous claims, the Examiner has not shared this view.

Nonetheless, with the features incorporated in the above amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is even further removed from the asserted combination.

As stated in the record, the '914 patent is a training guitar. The "computer or microprocessor" referenced in the office action coordinates "an array of LEDs and LDCs that indicate the strings to finger, the fingers to use, the strings to play and the direction to play." See col. 2 of '914. Beyond the "freeze" control, or selecting the training CD to play, there is no to little user input. This training guitar is essentially a fingering display, with the display feature

being situated along the frets. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be modified to modify the display of the '914 patent to arrive at the claimed invention at least in terms of content and location.

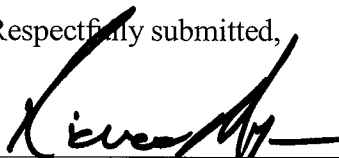
Examiner Interview

On October 30, 2007, the Examiner was gracious enough to grant a telephonic interview to Applicant and Applicant's representative. The time and attention of the Examiner during this productive interview and with respect to the prosecution of application in general are greatly appreciated.

From the foregoing, further and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment or the Application in general, she is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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